

Filed for intro on 06/26/2001

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 579
By Caldwell

A RESOLUTION To honor the participants of the Caldwell Family
Reunion.

WHEREAS, Families and their respective histories of struggle with adversities, persistence in pursuit of goals and dreams, and their triumphs and tragedies are an integral part of the tapestry of American history; and

WHEREAS, The family unit is the basis of American culture and the foundation of an orderly and productive society; the framework for mutual support that the family affords its members is essential to a healthy national culture; and

WHEREAS, The Caldwell family will hold its eighth family reunion at the Paris Landing State Park Inn on July 13-15; and

WHEREAS, The Caldwell family is descended from Georgie and Charles Caldwell and their six children, Lexie, William, B, Nell, Cecil, and Houston; born and raised in the Fremont Community, Georgie and Charles's children faithfully attended the Fremont Church of Christ with their parents; and

HJR0579

00886583

WHEREAS, Each of the Caldwell children were married and blessed with children of their own; Georgie and Charles Caldwell's children instilled in their own children the strong moral and spiritual values present in their upbringing; and

WHEREAS, The thirteen Caldwell cousins, Ronelle Caldwell Wells, James Harold Caldwell, Robert Dale Osborne, Wilma Dorris Scott, Carolyn Brown Bonzanto, Marvin Gene Caldwell, Glen Brown Hickey, Ann Maxine Kennedy, Charles Lyndell Caldwell, Bobby Joe Caldwell, William Allen (Billy) Caldwell, David Winston Caldwell, and Dennis Charles Caldwell, established a bi-annual reunion to teach their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren the rich history of the Caldwell family as it migrated from France to Scotland to Ireland, and then to the United States; and

WHEREAS, Early members of the Caldwell family attended the Cub Creek Church and started the Caldwell School of Preaching, which influenced the fundamentalist churches and the States Rights movement across the South in the early 1800's; Caldwell family members were also instrumental in the settlement of Kentucky, the establishment of the first medical school west of the Appalachian Mountains, and the settlement of Obion County; in 1820, members of the Caldwell family were among the first settlers in the West Tennessee Territory; and

WHEREAS, The thirteen Caldwell cousins proudly carry on the legacy of the Caldwell family, passing on to their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren the strong religious and moral background associated with the Caldwell family name; and

WHEREAS, The first born of the thirteen Caldwell cousins, Ronelle Caldwell Wells, has always been treated with the same respect as the Caldwell aunts and uncles; Ronelle and her late husband, James, guided and supported their younger cousins; and

WHEREAS, Ronelle Caldwell Wells was instrumental in the creation of the Caldwell Family Reunion; through her special endeavors, family members from Alaska, Arkansas, Ohio, and Tennessee have been able to come together to form a bond that spans four generations; and

WHEREAS, The first Caldwell Family Reunion was held at the home of James and Ronelle Wells near Pleasant View on Labor Day in 1987; after much reminiscing, the forty family members in attendance enjoyed a picnic lunch under a few shade trees, and following the picnic, they gathered to learn about their family's rich heritage from Tennessee State Representative Gene Caldwell; and

WHEREAS, On September 3, 1990, at the second family reunion, fifty Caldwell family members shared favorite recipes, enjoyed horseback riding, hayrides, food, live music, and an update of the Caldwell family history; and

WHEREAS, Forty-three Caldwell family members attended the third family reunion on September 7, 1992; in addition to sharing fond memories and playing various games and contests, the Caldwell family participated in a croquet tournament; and

WHEREAS, The fourth Caldwell Family Reunion was held on Labor Day, 1994; the forty family members in attendance shared updates on each branch of the family and learned more about their history; and

WHEREAS, Fifty-five family members attended the fifth Caldwell Family Reunion, which was held at a new location; Terry and John Creek started the tradition of an Alaskan/Tennessee Seafood Feast, with Terry bringing the Alaskan portion from his home in Juneau; and

WHEREAS, The sixth Caldwell Family Reunion was held July 11-12, 1997 at Paris Landing State Park; eighty-eight family members updated each other on family activities, enjoyed performances by the Caldwell Band, and watched a reenactment of the Montana truck ride, which included Uncle Cecil, who at the time was ninety-six years old, assuming his rightful position on the truck bed; and

WHEREAS, In 1999, the seventh Caldwell Family Reunion was held on July 23-25 with eighty family members present; reunion activities included visiting, singing, taking pictures,

enjoying the Alaskan meal, hearing family history from Tennessee State Representative Gene Caldwell, and participating in a worship service; and

WHEREAS, The 2001 Caldwell Family Reunion is sure to be a time of joyous recollection, strengthening of family relationships, and renewal of old friendships; and

WHEREAS, This legislative body is proud to recognize such a vital family and to applaud their contributions to this State and Nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor the Caldwell family, commend their loyalty, their love for each other, and their pride in the family's heritage, and extend to them our best wishes for this year's celebration and all future reunions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.